

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-12 HA-05 /106 W
-----058761 110728Z /14

R 101647Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2359

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, RH, XA, XJ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA - IVORY COAST REACTION TO PRESIDENT
CARTER'S COMMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 61381, (B) ABIDJAN 1691

1. WHEN I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER AKE THIS MORNING, HE MENTIONED
THAT HE HAD READ WITH INTEREST THE SUBSTANCE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
COMMENTS ON RHODESIA AT MARCH 9 PRESS CONFERENCE. IVORY COAST
STRONGLY SUPPORTED EFFORT TO ORGANIZE A CONFERENCE OF ALL INTERESTED
NATIONALIST LEADERS TO RECONCILE TERMS OF THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL WITH THOSE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. GOIC
NEITHER ACCEPTED NOR REJECTED AT THIS POINT THE ACCORDS REACHED
IN SALISBURY. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS TO KEEP EVERYONE MOVING IN
THE SAME DIRECTION SO THAT ULTIMATELY A SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND
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WHICH PERMITTED ALL, REPEAT, ALL NATIONALIST ELEMENTS TO PARTICI-
PATE IN FREE ELECTIONS LEADING TO A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT. THIS,
SAID AKE, WAS THE MESSAGE WHICH THE IVORIAN PERMREP IN NEW ORK
WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY IN CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS OF THE
RHODESIA PROBLEM AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. COMMENT: AKE WAS LESS CHARITABLE IN HIS COMMENTS ON THE

INTERNAL SETTLEMENT PLAN THAN HOUPHOUET THREE WEEKS AGO (REFTEL B).
THIS DIFFERENCE IN EMPHASIS IS NEITHER SURPRISING NOR UNPRECEDENTED,
SINCE IVORIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY TENDS TO BE EXPOSED MORE DIRECTLY
THAN HOUPHOUET TO OAU PRESSURES TO MAINTAIN AFRICAN SOLIDARITY.
WE CAN, THEREFORE, EXPECT GOIC, WHILE IN GENERAL GOING ALONG WITH
MAJORITY POSITIONS ADOPTED BY AFRICAN CAUCUS IN NEW YORK, TO
CONTINUE WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO AVOID EXPLICIT CONDEMNATION
OF MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE OR EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC
FRONT.
STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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